

The proposed action by Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to broadcast an anti-Kerry program without a companion equal-time anti-Bush program is clear evidence of why no person or company should be allowed to own more than five stations overall and more than one in any given broadcast area.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.